

**RESOLUTION DECLARING JANUARY 2021  
“HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH”  
IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, human trafficking is a form of modern slavery that occurs in every state, including California, wherein victims are forced to work in various forms of labor exploitation including, but not limited to, commercial sex acts and other services that are induced through force, fraud, or coercion; and

**WHEREAS**, due to its isolated and discrete nature, many individuals across the globe are unaware that trafficking exists in their communities. It is estimated that more than 40 million people around the world are victims of human trafficking; and; and

**WHEREAS**, Human Trafficking victims face a cruelty that has no place in a civilized world. It is a crime that can take many forms, and one that tears at our social fabric, debases our common humanity, and violates what we stand for as a country; and

**WHEREAS**, increased education about how to identify human trafficking along with increased knowledge of in-state resources and services for those affected by criminal exploitation can help decrease the number of future victims; and

**WHEREAS**, the Santa Barbara County Human Trafficking Task Force is committed to creating legal frameworks for investigating human trafficking and prosecuting those engaged in it; and

**WHEREAS**, the Santa Barbara County Human Trafficking Task Force has worked diligently to bring awareness to the fact that human trafficking occurs closer to home than one might think, and that California ranks number 1 in the country for reported human trafficking cases; and Human Trafficking Awareness Month is an opportunity to recognize the critical role that all Santa Barbara County residents play in preventing, reporting, and adjudicating these heinous crimes;

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND RESOLVED**, that the County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors does hereby proclaim January 2021 as “Human Trafficking Awareness Month” in order for all citizens to become better aware of the issues surrounding Human Trafficking both locally and globally.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County, State of California, this 12th day of January 2021 by unanimous vote of all members present.